WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

WILDLIFE RESOURCES
DIVISION

WEST VIRGINIA
NONGAME NEWS

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 2

SPRING 1987

Beginning with this issue, watch for WILD Notes, *a regular feature written by the WV Project WILD Coordinator, Art Shomo.*

WILD Workshops Begin

by Art Shomo

Thirty-two environmental educators from around West Virginia gathered at Blackwater Falls State Park last November to learn about leading Project WILD workshops. Participants in the intensive two-day facilitator workshop were informed about the philosophy and development of Project WILD, West Virginia's wildlife, and leading their own workshops. Most of the workshop involved participating in or leading the activities which comprise Project WILD.

During one activity, participants, representing different elements of habitat, formed a habitat circle by sitting on the lap of the person standing behind them. When one element was removed from the circle, mimicing environmental problems that may be created by drought or the construction of a shopping center, the habitat fell apart. The ensuing laughter proved that learning can be fun!

Teachers, 4-H and scout leaders, or other youth leaders interested in environmental education or in introducing wildlife into classes such as math and social studies may receive one of the Project WILD activity guides FREE by attending a six-hour workshop. The workshop concentrates on active participation in the WILD activities. Those attending the workshop also receive a packet of supplementary materials on West Virginia wildlife. Each person receives materials valued at over $40.

Workshops are being planned in Greenbrier, Randolph, and Pocahontas counties. Several other county school systems have expressed an interest in sponsoring Project WILD workshops.

If you wish to obtain more information on Project WILD, write for a brochure which explains the program and contains a workshop application form. Inquiries should be addressed to: Project WILD Coordinator, Department of Natural Resources, 1800 Washington St., East, Charleston, WV 25305. When you send in the application form, your name will be placed on a mailing list. You will receive notice several weeks before a workshop is offered in your area.

Nongame Project Review

•Butterflies of WV

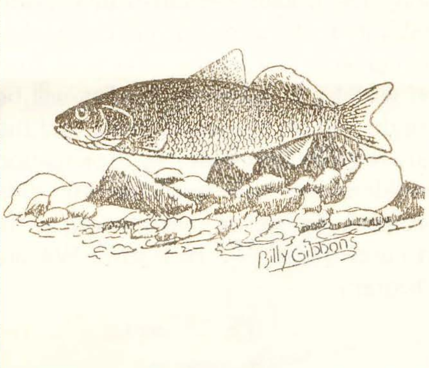
Beginning in 1984, the West Virginia Nongame Wildlife Program has provided funding for distributional studies of butterflies that occur in the state. A total of 121 species have now been documented to inhabit the Mountain State. This information, along with data from past investigations and 20 current volunteer cooperators, is being compiled by Tom Allen, DNR biologist, to produce West Virginia's first publication on butterflies. The book will contain, for each species, descriptions of both adults and larvae, distribution maps, habitat and life history information, nector sources, and larval food plants. In addition, there will be color plates depicting each species (both adult and caterpillar stages) and keys to guide identification.

Lepidopterists who would like to share any additional information on the state's butterflies, or participate in the 1987 field collections should contact Tom Allen, WV DNR, P. O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241. Data is still needed, especially from the Ohio River counties.

•Survey of WV Fishes

1987 will mark the last field season for a distribution study of West Virginia's diverse fish fauna. Surveys of all the state's 7 major drainages have been completed. In 1987 more samples will be taken from the Kanawha River and from areas that were affected by the 1985 flood.

Work has already begun on the manuscript for *The Fishes of West Virginia.* This publication will contain a wealth of information including line drawings, distribution maps, and a brief discussion of the biology and habitat for each species found in the state. Its completion date has been targeted for 1989.



Continued On Page Two

•1987 Nongame Wildlife Weekend

The nongame staff is busy with preparations for the fourth annual Nongame Wildlife Weekend, to be held again at Blackwater Falls State Park June 5-7. The theme of this year's event is "attracting wildlife to your backyard." Our guest speaker will be Mr. Craig Tufts of the National Wildlife Federation's Urban Wildlife Program and author of "The Backyard Naturalist." Also scheduled are workshops on nature photography, edible wild foods, bluebird box construction and trail design, gardening with wildlife, aquarium construction, and forest fungi, to name only a few. In addition, there will be several field forays from which to choose and presentations on butterfly gardening, attracting birds and other wildlife to your backyard, and providing water for wildlife. The price is only $59 per person and includes 2 nights lodging, 3 meals Saturday, and registration. If you would like to attend and haven't already received notice concerning the weekend, write in care of the WV Nongame Wildlife Program.

• Cooperative Projects

Thirty projects were selected by the Nongame Citizens Advisory Council for funding in 1987, including two research grants. Examples of selected projects include: a boardwalk for Cranesville Swamp, development of a nongame wildlife demonstration park, habitat restoration projects, and a pamphlet featuring the effects of litter on wildlife. In addition, studies will be conducted on the wood turtle and the rare regal fritillary butterfly. Application booklets are now available for 1988 projects. For more information, write in care of the WV Nongame Wildlife Program.

• Mammal Survey

In conjunction with the West Virginia Mammal Survey, a field course offered through Marshall University's Department of Biological Sciences will be held from July 20 through August 21. Participants will have an opportunity to learn all common and many special field techniques employed in mammalian faunal surveys. A variety of techniques for the scientific documentation of the distribution, ecology, and natural history of small mammals will be used. Students will learn how to collect, identify, and prepare scientific specimens; field process tissues for genetic (enzyme) studies and karyotyping; collect ecological and reproductive data; record behavioral and natural history observations, and maintain scientific field records.

After 2 days of orientation on campus, the time will be spent in the field at 5 different sites in "Wild, Wonderful West Virginia." Living arrangements will be in cabins or tents in campgrounds (somewhat primitive, but with a few refinements and amenities).

Graduate standing in biology or a related science is a prerequisite. Previous fieldwork experience is not required. A strong interest in field biology, excellent health, a cooperative attitude, and an adventuresome spirit are necessary. If space permits, senior undergraduates with qualifications and interest will be accepted. The cost will be $170.00 plus tuition. Instructors for the course are Dr. Mary Etta Hight of Marshall University , Dr. Duane Schlitter, and staff members from the Mammal Section, Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

For more information contact Dr. Mary Etta Hight, Department of Biological Sciences, Marshall University, Huntington, WV 25701, phone 304-696-6692 (office) or 304-529-0130 (home).

• Endangered Bat Surveys

The annual Virginia big-eared bat maternity colony census was conducted this past June 1986. Seven of the nine known maternity colonies had increased in number from the 1985 census, and two decreased. Overall, the population of known reproductive females has increased by more than 14 percent from last year and nearly 24 percent from 1983, the first year the counts were made. This increase is probably due in part to protective measures, such as gates and fences at cave entrances, taken by the WV Nongame Wildlife Program, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U. S. Forest Service, and the cooperation of private landowners and cavers in abiding by entry restrictions when bats are present.

—*Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*
Vol. XI, Nos. 8 & 9

New Books

• *The Braxton Connection* is a collection of 53 outdoor columns and nature stories by Skip Johnson, outdoor writer for The Charleston Gazette. The 114-page book includes 15 photographs, 13 illustrations by artist Bill Pitzer, and a color cover. This publication includes a wide range of West Virginia outdoor topics, along with articles focusing on such personalities as Maurice Brooks, Ed Buck, Wayne Bailey, Joe Roy and the late "mountain lion man," Red Cooper. Send orders to Johnson Book, The Charleston Gazette, P. O. Box 2993, Charleston, WV 25301.

• New in the series of West Virginia Wildlife and Natural Resources publications produced by the West Virginia Extension Service is *Aquatic & Wetland Plants of West Virginia.* Over 85 species of plants occurring in ponds, rivers and wetland areas of the state are described and illustrated. This non-technical publication includes algae, grasses, sedges, and flowering plants. The $5.00 cost includes postage, and may be ordered from: Norma Venable, 406 Knapp Hall, Morgantown, WV 26506-6031. Checks should be made payable to West Virginia University.

- "The Tygart Lake Fishing Guide," first in a series of full-color fishing guides to West Virginia's large reservoirs, is now available. The guide features a map of the lake with 10-foot depth contours. Additional information includes seasonal operation of the dam and lake levels, boating access, and fishing opportunities. The fishing section provides details of how, when, and where to fish for each of the sport fishes, peak action fishing calendar, and color pictures of major game fish.

This fishing guide costs $3.00 and may be ordered by writing to: Tygart Lake Fishing Guide, Department of Natural Resources, P. O. Box 67, Elkins, West Virginia 26241. Make check or money order payable to the Department of Natural Resources and be sure your name, address and zip code are included with your order. Purchases may also be made in person at your local district DNR office.

Loggerhead Shrike

Help is requested from residents of eastern West Virginia or others interested in aiding a now rare species of bird, the loggerhead shrike. According to Rodney Bartgis, zoologist with the WV DNR's Wildlife/Heritage Data Base, "The shrike is currently under review by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for possible inclusion on the Endangered Species List. It is very rare, or extirpated, in all states east of the Mississippi that do not border on the Gulf of Mexico. It is believed to be extirpated as a breeder in Maryland and Pennsylvania, for example. It's decline in West Virginia and Virginia has also been quite substantial. It is not known what the decline is due to, although habitat loss or pesticide use are possibly responsible.

"In West Virginia, we currently know of only two breeding shrike populations that remain, one in the Greenbrier Valley and one in the Shenandoah Valley. We suspect that there may be fewer than twenty pairs of shrikes left in the state. Unfortunately, that's still many more than most eastern states have. We need to locate our remaining pairs so that we can determine their numbers and habitat use more accurately and to encourage landowners to protect pairs on private property."

"We are encouraged that seven shrikes were found in the Charles Town Christmas Count this year. This suggests we may not be too late to save the shrike."

For more information, contact Mr. Rodney Bartgis, WV Dept. of Natural Resources, P. O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241 or call (304) 636-1767.

That's No Duck

by Jerome Hansen

It's a pied-billed grebe!

This small, shy, aquatic bird inhabits wetland areas throughout West Virginia. It is normally found swimming near areas of heavy vegetative cover. At first glance, one usually thinks this waterbird is a duck. But a closer look at the brownish bird shows a short, henlike bill with a black band around it. It can only be the pied-billed grebe.

The grebe is known for its diving and underwater swimming ability. In the olden days when anything floating on water was fair game for market hunters, it became known as the hell-diver, or water witch. It seemed to disappear almost before the gun was fired, creating a constant source of frustration for the hunter.

Grebes either spring back from the water and plunge downward head first, or sink quietly backward, leaving scarcely a ripple behind. By compressing and expelling the air between their feathers, grebes become less buoyant when diving. Once under the water's surface, they use their lobed feet and wings to move swiftly through the water, when resurfacing, they can rise slowly and expose only their bill above water as they swim along. This accounts for the bird's amazing ability to vanish without a trace.

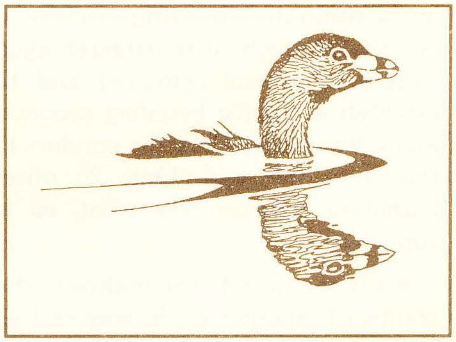
Diving is a way of life for the grebe. Its wings are small and the legs are situated further back on a grebe's body than on a duck's. Hence, when danger threatens, getting off the water and into flight can be a time-consuming chore for these birds, so they merely disappear underwater. Grebes rarely seek land, but when they do, they use their wings as forefeet to help them walk.

These small birds, only 9 inches in length, may be found in West Virginia throughout the year, usually alone or in very small groups. But nesting records are rare. If you are very lucky, the courtship ritual is an event not to be missed. The male grebe will rush about in an excited manner, splashing along over the top of the water or repeatedly diving below it to come up near his mate, softly cooing his admiration.

The large, floating nest is anchored and concealed among reeds and rushes in shallow water. It is constructed of mounds of vegetation, much of which is still green. Both sexes incubate the eggs and when neither is present, the five to seven brownish eggs are covered with the nest material. It is thought that the decaying action of the vegetation helps to keep the eggs warm.

The young black and white striped grebes hatch after a three-week incubation period. They are ready to take a dip as soon as they are out of the shell. Once in the water, the young grebes often ride on the backs of their parents. They nestle deep in their parents' plumage when they are taken for wild dives, coming up none the worse after their dunking.

Grebes feed on small fish, snails, frogs, and other aquatic animals. They also eat some plant material. These birds have the unique habit of eating their own feathers. It is thought that the wadded up balls of feathers in the stomach act as strainers for small bones and shells.



The shy pied-billed grebe is not the most well known of the wetland birds in West Virginia, but it is certainly one of the most unique. They are well worth a trip to the marsh to see!

Endangered Species Notes

- Efforts to re-establish peregrine falcons along the coast of Virginia have been so successful that biologists are now going to concentrate their efforts in the mountainous portions of that state. A total of 126 birds have been raised and released from 9 coastal sites in Virginia over the years. In 1985, some of these birds, now adults, returned and occupied the nesting towers at every site. Two pairs nested successfully and produced a total of seven young.

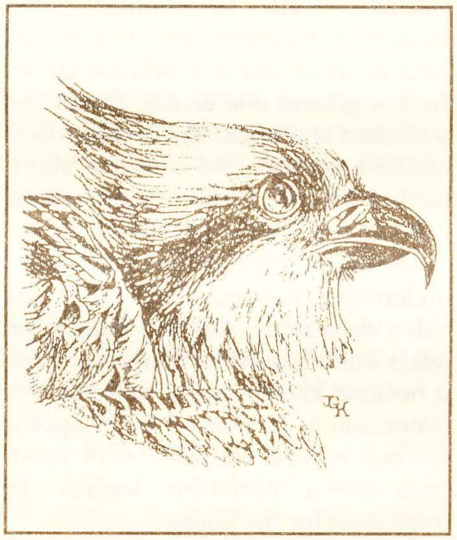
Bob Mitchell
PA Game News
Vol. 57 No. 8 pg. 64

- Eight pairs of bald eagles returned this past spring to nest in Ohio. Of these, 5 pairs successfully produced a total of 9 eaglets. Ohio's Division of Wildlife has kept records on the eagle nesting population since 1959. During that time the number of successful pairs exceeded four only once, with 5 successful pairs in 1982. However, Ohio had not fledged more than 7 naturally produced eaglets until last summer. Ohio Wildlife officials are encouraged by the high percentage of successful nests this past year and are optimistic for the future of the eagle population in the state.

- As of March 1987 only one California condor was known to exist in the wild. Nicknamed "Igor," this condor is the object of an intensive search by a team of scientists and wildlife experts who hope to capture this giant vulture in an attempt to help save this nearly extinct species. The plan is to protect the birds from the hazards of the wild (including indiscriminate shooting and lead poisoning brought on by eating shotgun pellets in animal remains) and to establish a captive breeding program that will someday allow the condors to return to the wild. Only 26 other California condors now exist, all in captivity.

- Once found throughout the southeast, another U. S. species that now exists only in captivity is the endangered red wolf. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has plans to reintroduce mated pairs of red wolves into the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in Dare and Tyrrell Counties of North Carolina. If approved, the plan calls for the acclimation of the wolves for 6 months in captive pens on the refuge, followed by a release of three pairs this spring. These animals will be closely monitored using radio telemetry during the first 3 to 5 months after this release. After this, the wolves will be checked periodically to make sure that they are still on the refuge. Any that should stray off will be recaptured. If this experiment is deemed a success, the USFWS hopes that other Federal land management agencies in the southeast will be interested in further reintroduction efforts.

—Endangered Species Technical Bulletin
Vol. XI, Nos. 8 & 9



Kentucky Ospreys

In the first known successful nesting since the 1940's, a pair of ospreys has built a nest and hatched out at least 2 young in Livingston County, Kentucky, according to John MacGregor, nongame biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources. The nest is located on a high-voltage power line along the Ohio River.

One of the adult ospreys was wearing a red U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service leg band, indicating that it was one of three birds hacked in Kentucky in an ongoing project by the Kentucky Nongame Wildlife Program. "Hacking" is a reintroduction technique whereby young ospreys are taken from the wilds in other states, flown to Kentucky, and raised in manmade nesting platforms. Volunteers feed them fish until they are fully feathered and capable of flight. Biologists believe that the birds will return to the area where they learned to fly to build their own nests. Since the program began in 1981, 60 young ospreys have been raised in Kentucky.

Amelanchiers: A Choice Backyard Choice

by Craig Tufts
National Wildlife Federation

Amelanchiers, members of the rose family, are native trees and shrubs that should find a place in most home landscapes. They bloom early and provide ripe fruit long before most other plants. They also attract a wide variety of native songbirds and other wildlife.

The fruit is as tasty to people as it is to birds. One of my fondest memories of sharing food with the birds was sitting, early one July, on the banks of the Little Beaver Kill in New York State's Catskills. Having exhausted most of the possibilities of catching brown trout, I was sitting underneath a tree-sized *Amelanchier,* sharing lots of the incredibly sweet purple-red fruit with cedar waxwings and Baltimore orioles.

Throughout much of the United States, 10 to 15 species of *Amelanchiers,* (also known as shadbush, shadblow, sarvis and serviceberry) are fairly commonplace in the natural environment. We may rarely notice them, except in the early spring when their billows of starry white flowers brighten the still rather austere landscape. Over the past 10 years or so, some of the plants, notably *Amelanchier canadensis* and *Amelanchier laevis,* have found their way to many local nurseries. These plants have few disease problems, excellent spring flowers, tasty fruit, attractive bark and, sometimes, red or yellow fall foliage.

With an *Amelanchier* or two in your yard, you might expect their flowers to attract some of the earliest emerging

Continued On Page Seven

American Robin

Even though the American robin is the Mountain State's best known harbinger of spring, it is probably safe to assume that most of us really know very little about this cheerful songbird. First of all, it may surprise you to find out that our robin is not really a robin at all, but is a member of the thrush family and is a close cousin to the bluebird, wood thrush and veery. The real robin redbreast is a native of the old world. This English songbird is much smaller than our robin and has a bright reddish-orange throat and breast. But the American robin, whose breast may be a light brown to a rich, dark, brick red color, still reminded our forefathers of the one found in England, so they named it in remembrance of their homeland.

Robins are familiar birds throughout the United States and are the state birds of Connecticut, Michigan, and Wisconsin. They nest from the limit of trees in northern North America south to southern California and across to southern Georgia. Although the majority of robins winter in warmer climates, they also regularly winter in northern climes, particularly during mild winters. Here they will roost among evergreens, feeding on persistant winter berries such as sumac, greenbrier and bittersweet. On warm winter days or during a thaw, they can be seen searching the ground for insects. The sighting of robins on such days leads many to think that an early spring is on the way.

However, it is not until late February or early March that the real northward migration begins. By mid-March, robins are a common sight in West Virginia and on warm spring-like mornings they can be heard singing their cheerful songs. In just a short time courtship will begin in earnest. At this time male robins can be seen chasing one another around, apparently trying to establish and defend territories. Many people have also experienced repeated attacks by male robins pecking at their windows or other shiny, polished surfaces. These robins are not crazy, but think their reflected image is another bird vying for their nesting territories.

Robins may build nests anywhere from the ground to the treetops, but usually in a place which provides firm support and where the nest is sheltered from the rain. Common locations include forks of evergreens (usually early nests), deciduous trees and shrubs, and many man-made sites such as building ledges, window sills, porch gables, or atop outside lights. Females usually do the nest building, without much help from the males, using coarse grasses, twigs, weed and grass stems and occasionally string, rags, or other debris. It is rather a bulky, untidy structure on the outside, but the inside is a neat deep cup lined with smooth mud and soft grasses. During construction, the female uses her bill and feet at the same time to weave the nest, while smoothing and shaping the mud lining with her breast.

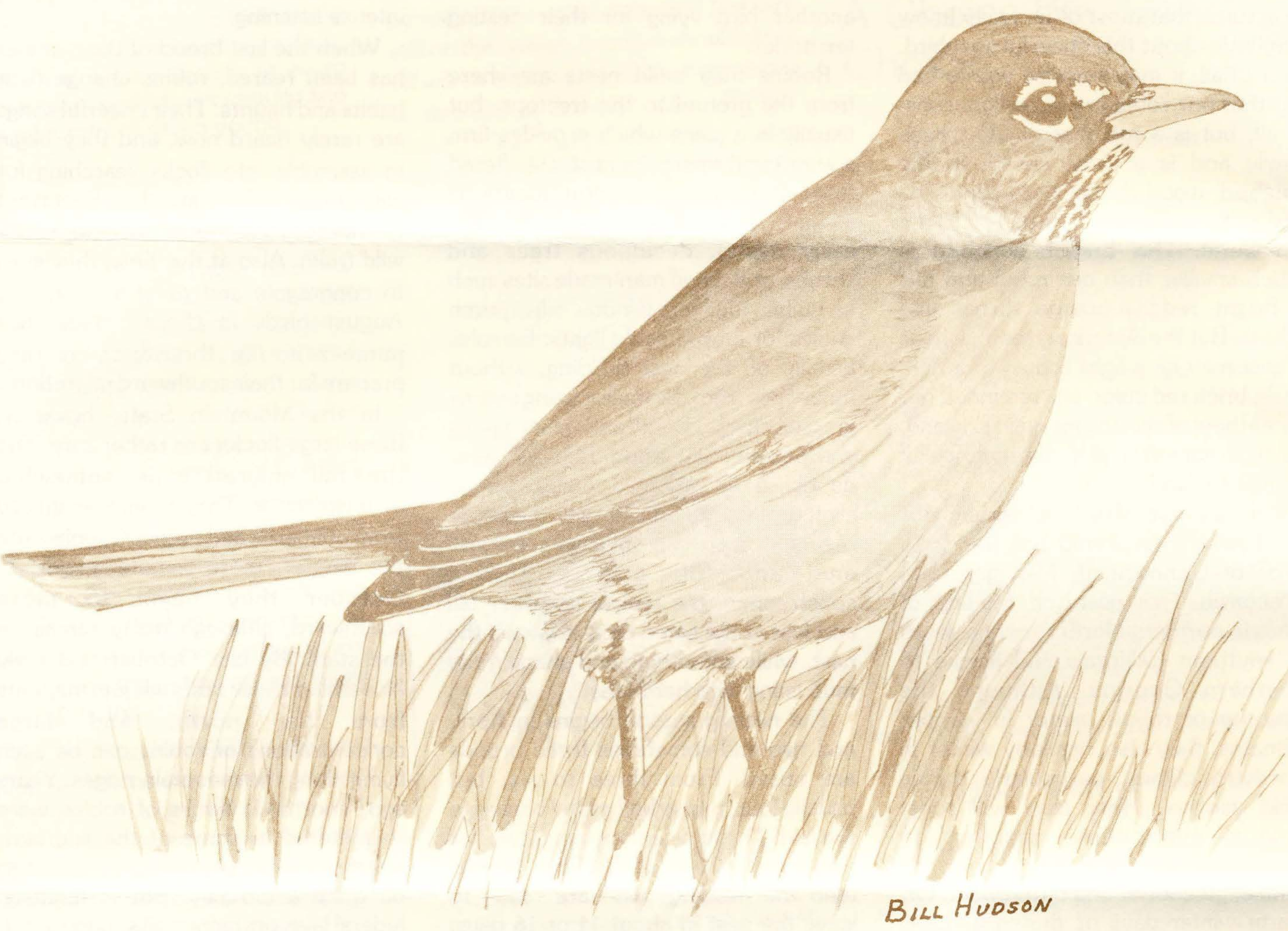
The nesting season begins in April, and two and sometimes three broods are raised. From three to six, but usually four, unmarked pastel blue eggs are laid. The female then incubates her eggs for about two weeks. Both parents tend the nestlings who are ready to leave the nest in about 14 or 16 days. Unlike their parents, their breasts are spotted, revealing the "thrush" in their lineage. At this time the young birds are very vulnerable to predators, including cats and dogs, and when the nests are over water (as they frequently are), to turtles, large fish, and frogs. While able to fly to the ground, often they are not yet strong enough to fly back up to safer perches.

Young birds eat mainly insects, as do the young of most birds. The parents can be seen hopping about lawns and meadows in search of beetles, weevils, ants, grasshoppers, and, particularly, earthworms and grubs. Contrary to what observers have often believed, robins locate earthworms by sight, not by sound, even though the birds cock their heads in a manner that resembles intense listening.

When the last brood of the summer has been reared, robins change their habits and haunts. Their cheerful songs are rarely heard now, and they begin to assemble into flocks searching for wild fruits. Robins are thus important distributors and planters of many of our wild fruits. Also at this time, they start to congregate and roost at night. By August birds in these roosts may number in the thousands as they prepare for their southward migrations.

In the Mountain State, however, these large flocks are rather rare, and the fall migration is somewhat inconspicuous. They disappear quietly from our yards and orchards, going into the deeper, more remote woods. In October they begin to move southward, although many remain in the state. By late October and early November these birds will join migrants from the north, and large concentrations of robins can be seen flying along the mountain ridges. Years ago, enormous flocks of robins were slaughtered in some of the southern states as robin pie was considered to be quite a delicacy. But fortunately, federal laws protecting all songbirds put an end to this practice.

Where robins are seen in the state during the winter months, they may be enticed to feeding stations with bread crumbs or cottage cheese. To tide robins over during especially bad winter storms, many people offer elderberries or wild grapes that they have collected for this purpose in the fall. In years of particularly harsh winter weather, many will not survive. But their adaptability, particularly to the changes brought about by man's activities, insures their survival as a species. Spring in the Mountain State wouldn't be the same without these cheerful songbirds.



American Robin

Turdus migratorius

butterflies, such as the larger swallowtails, the blues, the whites, some hairstreaks and elfins.

Songbirds will make the most use of your shads, feasting on the ripe fruits. Visitors may include, for instance, orioles, tanagers, certainly cardinals and robins, plus a variety of other thrushes, mockingbirds, catbirds, yellow-breasted chats and thrashers, as well as game birds such as quail and turkey.

The type and size of a shadbush should be keyed to the size of your property and its soil conditions. Some Amelanchiers are small shrubs (4 or 5 feet in height) and grow upright, in clumps. At the other extreme are species such as *Amelanchier canadensis* and *Amelanchier arborea* which grow into 10-to 30-foot trees. In time, the trees too will probably feature 3 or 4 trunks, growing the way clump birch and witch hazel trees grow. A few Amelanchiers prefer wet soils; others grow on the driest of rocky slopes.

Some Amelanchiers are available through the mail; others are obtainable only through specialty nurseries. These wonderful trees and shrubs are well worth a close perusal of your winter mail order catalog or a visit to your local garden center. Whether you're concerned simply with the plant's form and color or, like millions of other Americans, you'd like to entice songbirds to your yard, it's a wonderful landscape choice. No matter what your reasons, shadbush can fill the bill.

—*The Backyard Naturalist*

Walking On Water? Impossible!

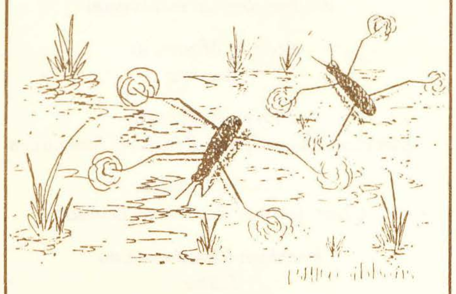
by Monica Grant

Of course walking on water is impossible, if you are human. There is, however, a creature that has the ability to walk on the surface of water. In fact, that is where it spends nearly all of its life. From the time it hatches until it dies, this animal may never set a tiny foot on shore. It does not sink, nor does it swim, although on occasion it is known to fly. This creature is usually seen skating with great agility across the surface of lakes, ponds, or the more gently flowing parts of streams. If you have not guessed the identity of this mysterious animal, it is only because you have never noticed this small, but common insect, the water strider.

Also known as pond skaters or wherrymen, water striders are recognized for their ability to skim along the water's surface. They accomplish this feat by exploiting two special factors. The first is a property of water called surface tension. At the water's surface, water molecules exist under a unique set of conditions. Below the surface film, water molecules are strongly attracted to each other. Above is the much smaller attractive force of air. Since the water molecules on the surface are drawn to the more attractive molecules of the water, the surface tends to be as small as possible, and is stretched taut like a balloon. Secondly, the very light weight of the insect is spread over quite an area—due to its long slender legs—and this, combined with the surface tension of the water keeps the insect afloat. Their feet touch the water with such slight pressure that they merely dimple its surface without breaking through. It is said that spreading a soap film over the water's surface will change the surface tension so that the insects would puncture it and drown.

As do all insects, water striders have three pairs of legs. Their long hindmost pair is used for steering, while the middle pair propels them smoothly across the surface of water. The short front legs are held up ready to grasp their food. Water striders prey upon smaller aquatic insects which have come to the surface or terrestrial species that have fallen into the water and can no longer fly. Occasionally, water striders can be seen popping into the air or diving below the surface to capture an unwary morsel.

These animals leave only when their aquatic surroundings dry up or during the mating season. Groups of winged adults will search for new waters suitable for starting a new or less crowded colony. There they will settle and breed.



The female water strider will lay eggs throughout the spring and summer. The eggs are laid in rows parallel to one another and are glued to floating objects at the water's edge. When the young hatch two weeks later, they are almost perfect miniatures of their parents. They have gray-brown, wingless backs and a silvery white underside. Immediately they are able to glide quickly and gracefully around their glassy new home.

When winter freezes the striders' habitat, they are forced to hibernate. They retreat to nooks and crannies of logs or crawl under rocks and debris near the water to wait out the long cold period until spring. Occasionally, however, they will emerge on a particularly warm, thawing day.

Watching water striders atop a clear shallow pool can be a fascinating and peaceful experience. They slide around effortlessly on the glassy water's surface and ride the ripples of a stream with ease. On a sunny day, the dimples made by their feet on the surface film leave disc-like shadows on the bottom. These shadows flit across the bottom terrain making ever-changing patterns of quadruplet ovals. To catch one of these elusive bugs is a challenge, as they can glide around more quickly than the human hand can move. More often than not, efforts to catch one will be rewarded by only a handful of water.

The Department of Natural Resources offers its programs to people of all ages regardless of race, color, sex, religion, or national origin and is an equal opportunity employer.

WEST VIRGINIA NONGAME NEWS
published quarterly by
Department of Natural Resources
Nongame Wildlife Program
Wildlife Resources Division

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Kathleen Carothers Leo
Editor

Ideas for articles are welcomed

Third Edition of WV Wildlife Calendar

The third edition of the WV Wildlife Calendar is now available, featuring the WV trout program. This 14 x 22 inch calendar has wildlife paintings largely by WV artists with a description of each animal depicted. In addition, the calendar includes information on wild flowers, bird migration, hunting and fishing, and a wealth of additional wildlife facts concerning both game and nongame animals. The calendar runs from September 1987 through August 1988 and sells for $5.25 plus 50¢ shipping for each calendar. Proceeds will help support the Nongame Wildlife Program.

WEST VIRGINIA NONGAME NEWS

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West Virginia Birds

The winter snows have melted and people throughout the state will soon be donning hiking boots and binoculars to see the returning birds of spring in their colorful breeding plumage. Whether you are a serious student of birds or an avid birdwatcher, you should have a copy of *West Virginia Birds* in your home library. Although it isn't a field guide, it is valuable because it documents the distribution, population status and trends of the 304 kinds of birds found in the state. In addition, the book contains a description of the state's environment, a history of West Virginia ornithology, and an analysis of the bird life in West Virginia. This 8-1/2 x 11 inch hard cover book contains 190 pages illustrated with 21 photographs, 10 distribution maps, and 12 drawings by George M. Sutton. Copies ($20.00 each) may be obtained from the West Virginia Nongame Wildlife Program, P. O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241.

Keep West Virginia WILD! Support the Nongame Wildlife Program.

"Check-off" Line 8 on your WV Income Tax Form or make a direct contribution to the Nongame Wildlife Fund.

SPRING 1987 **Vol. 5 No. 2**

WV NONGAME NEWS

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